

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06048 260854Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-07  
ACDA-07 /102 W

-----261319Z 051560 /46

R 260748Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5037  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
CINCPAC  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMMBASSY MOSCOW 3148  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6048

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PFOR, CB,CH, JA, KS, PF, PG, TH, UR, VN  
SUBJ: PRC ATTITUDES ON KOREA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

SUMMARY: A LOCAL PRC REPRESENTATIVE TOLD CONGENOFF  
MAY 25 THAT U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH KOREA  
SHOULD BE HANDLED CAUTIOUSLY. COMMENTING ON SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN INTERRELATIONSHIPS, SOURCE STATED THAT HE FELT  
THE SOVIET UNION WAS BEHIND THE RECENT HARDENING OF THE  
VIETNAMESE POSITION ON U.S. WAR REPARATIONS. HE  
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ADDED: "IF THE VIETNAMESE ARE REALLY SOCIALIST THEN  
THEY WOULD NOT DEMAND REPARATIONS." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MAY 25 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH  
CONGENOFF, A HONG KONG BASED PRC JOURNALIST COMMENTED  
ON CURRENT U.S. EFFORTS TO REDUCE GROUND FORCES IN  
KOREA BY STATING THAT THE PRC "GENERALLY" OPPOSES

THE STATIONING OF TROOPS ON FOREIGN SOIL. HE ADDED THAT KOREA IS "A VERY DELICATE SITUATION" AND THAT ANY NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING THE OVERALL EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. IDEALLY, U.S. TROOPS WITHDRAWALS SHOULD ACCOMPANY A MOVE TOWARD THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND CHINA, WANTS ANOTHER WAR IN KOREA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE CONTINUED, JAPAN SHOULD BEEF UP ITS DEFENSE FORCES TO DEVELOP A CREDIBLE DEFENSE. JAPAN SHOULD RELY LESS ON THE UNITED STATES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SOURCE ADDED THAT THE PRC DID NOT FEEL THAT JAPAN WOULD REVERT TO MILITARISM MERELY BECAUSE IT TOOK ON MORE OF ITS OWN DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. TURING TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, SOURCE SAID HE FELT THAT SOVIETS WERE BEHIND THE RECENT HARDENING OF THE VIETNAMESE POSITION ON U.S. REPARATIONS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD ABANDONED ITS CLAIM EARLIER BUT RENEWED THE DEMAND AFTER GIAP HAD TRAVELED TO MOSCOW. HE SAID THAT GIAP MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE A TOUGHER POSITION TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. "IF THE VIETNAMESE ARE REALLY SOCIALIST, THEN THEY WOULD NOT DEMAND REPARATIONS".

3. CONGENOFF THEN INQUIRED ABOUT THE RECENT VIETNAMESE ANNOUNCEMENT ESTABLISHING A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SOURCE RESPONDED THAT VIETNAM COULD CONFIDENTIAL

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DO WHAT IT WANTED BUT "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PARACEL AND SPRATLY ISLANDS BELONG TO CHINA". EVEN THOUGH HE AVOIDED A DIRECT DISCUSSION OF SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THE PRC WOULD SOON ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN SAIGON. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM THE PRC EMBASSY IN HANOI.

4. SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT VIETNAM-CAMBODIA RELATIONS WERE GENERALLY LIMITED TO RESTRAINED STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS. PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE "CHAUVINISTIC ATTITUDE" OF THE VIETNAMESE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THE RECENT CAMBODIAN-THAI BORDER PROBLEMS WERE CERTAINLY NOT THE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE CAMBODIAN POLICY. UCH PROBLEMS ARE MORE THAN LIKELY THE RESULT OF "BAD OFFICIALS" ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. UNDERSCORING PRC ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CORDIAL CAMBODIAN-THAI RELATIONS, SOURCE STATED THAT THE PRC HAD FACILITATED THE 1976 IENG SARY VISIT TO BANGKOK.

THE CHINESE IN FACT PROVIDED THE PLANE, COMMUNICATIONS  
FACILITIES AND BACKUP PERSONNEL. SOURCE SAID:  
"WE WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE  
THAI CONSULATE IN HONG KONG OVER THE IENG SARY VISIT."  
THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN  
HONG KONG NEGOTIATED THE TRIP FOR THE CAMBODIAN  
LEADER.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CB, CH, JA, KS, PF, PG, TH, UR, VN  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009